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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Dr. Donald A. Harp, Jr., of the Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, Atlanta, GA.

PRAYER

The guest chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, our help in ages past and our hope for years to come, we offer our words of thanksgiving for our Nation and the freedoms that are ours. Hear our words of thanksgiving for those men and women who gave their lives that this freedom is ours today.

Inspire this body to reach decisions based on truth, wisdom, compassion, and fairness for all. Bless each Senator with the ability to reach decisions reflecting our heritage as a "nation under God."

Bless our President and the decisions he reaches on behalf of our Nation. Watch over and care for those men and women in our military and bring them home safely. We offer this our prayer in God's Holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today the Senate will work toward completion of

our consideration of S. Con. Res. 95, the budget resolution. There are 14 hours remaining under the statutory time limit for debate. Under the Budget Act it is in order to yield back time, and that may occur at the managers' discretion over the course of this morning and early afternoon.

Once time is used or yielded back, we would expect to begin a series of rollcall votes which would include passage of the resolution. Again, the timing for that final vote will be determined by the number of amendments and how soon we get to the series of rollcall votes. I do want to encourage our colleagues that once we begin that series of rollcall votes, we do it in a very timely, orderly fashion.

We made very good progress on the resolution yesterday, conducting six rollcall votes and disposing of eight amendments. The chairman and ranking member are here today on the floor ready to work through the amendments to the resolution. Therefore, Senators should expect a very busy day, as we all know and have appropriately planned for a late evening tonight, with rollcall votes throughout.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 1997

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1997) to amend title 18, United States Code, and the Uniform Code of Military Justice to protect unborn children from assault and murder, and for other purposes.

Mr. FRIST. I object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The bill will be set on the calendar.

Mr. FRIST. I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. Con Res. 95, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 95) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2005 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2006 through 2009.

Pending:

Corzine amendment No. 2777, to eliminate tax breaks for those with incomes greater than \$1 million and reserve the savings to prevent future cuts in Social Security benefits.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the pending amendment be laid aside.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I have yet to have a chance to review the amendment of the Senator from California. I object at this point and I expect in the near future I will be happy to accommodate our friend. She can begin her debate and maybe that will help clarify the intention of her amendment.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I appreciate that. I am so sorry. I was sure Senator NICKLES had seen this amendment. I don't think there is anything surprising. It is essentially a jobs amendment, initiatives that have been introduced by other Senators. We packaged it in one package.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Does the Senator from California seek time from the manager on your side for proceeding?

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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